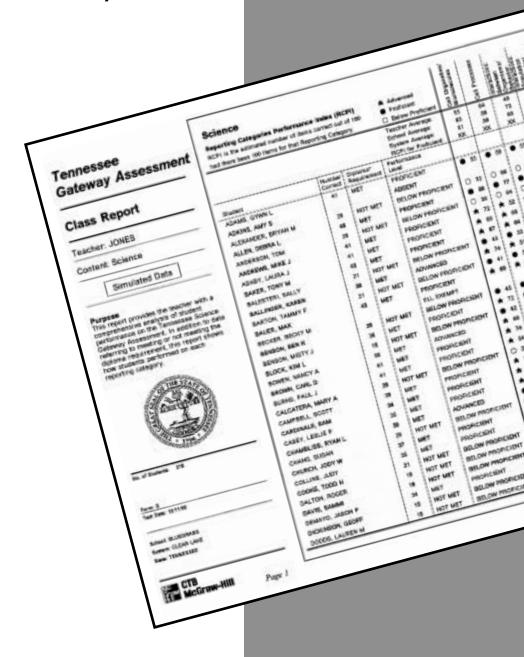
Guide to Test Report Interpretation

2002-2003 Tennessee Gateway Assessment





Tennessee Department of Education Evaluation and Assessment Division

How to interpret Gateway results and use the information to analyze curriculum strengths.

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UNDERSTANDING GATEWAY RESULTS

This Guide has been prepared to help you understand the Gateway Assessment results and assist you in applying these results to improve educational opportunities for your students. These reports are a main source of test information and are helpful in making important decisions regarding instructional needs for classes and individual students.

For more information about the Gateway Assessment Program, please visit the 'TESTS' area of the Depatment of Education on the web:

Department of Education: http://www.state.tn.us/education.htm

REPORT	MODE/LEVEL	TOTAL MODE/LEVEL COPIES TEACHER			SCHOOL SYSTEM	
Individual Profile Report	Student	2	1	1		
Class Report	Teacher	2		1	1	
Performance Level Summary Report	School	2	1	1		
Performance Level Summary Report	System	1			1	
Reporting Category Performance Summary	School	1		1		
Reporting Category Performance Summary	System	1			1	

If, after reading this Guide, you have further questions about Gateway test results, please contact:

MIKE RICKERT or MARY TAYLOR

Program Managers Gateway Testing Initiative (615) 741-0720

Tennessee Department of Education Evaluation & Assessment Division 7th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower 710 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243

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CRITERION-REFERENCED TESTS

Gateway assessments are Tennessee-specific, criterion-referenced tests which allow users to interpret scores in comparison to Tennessee's Curriculum Standards. It does not allow users to interpret scores in comparison to the performance of others. The Curriculum Standards, as defined by the State of Tennessee, provide objectives for student accomplishment in each of the courses tied to the Gateway assessments. These courses are Algebra I for Gateway Mathematics, Biology I for Gateway Science and English II for Gateway Language Arts. From these objectives, Performance Indicators were written to describe how the objectives would be measured.

On the Gateway criterion-referenced tests, each test item is directly linked to a Performance Indicator. The Performance Indicators were clustered into Reporting Categories for the reports described in this document.

Student mastery of each Reporting Category is reported as the Performance Level. Performance Levels (Below Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced) were established through intensive standard setting procedures which included Tennessee Teachers and were approved by the State Board of Education. The Performance level scores determined during the standard setting fluctuate based on psychometric values of the items in each administration.

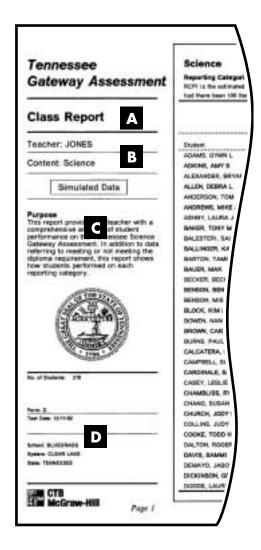
Examples of questions for each Gateway course Performance Indicator can be found on the web in Item Samplers at the following address: http://www.state.tn.us/education/ tssamplers.htm

INTERVENTION

Gateway assessments are a graduation requirement for students seeking a regular high school diploma in Tennessee. This requirement applies to all students who entered 9th grade in Fall 2001 and thereafter. Any student who does not meet the minimum proficiency level on a Gateway assessment will need to retake that particular test. Schools are required to offer Intervention to these students. The Intervention should be based on individual student needs, wherein students receive remediation in the specific Reporting Categories where weaknesses were noted. Gateway reports specify those areas where students need intervention. Questions regarding Intervention should be directed to Deborah Williams in the State Department of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Division at (615) 253-5710 or deborah.williams@state.tn.us.

FEATURES INCLUDED ON ALL REPORTS

- A Name of report appears in this area.
- This area of the report is reserved for the name of the individual, teacher, school, or system to which the report applies. The content area covered is also indicated.
- Every report contains a purpose statement. The reader is introduced to the reason for the report and how the information may be used.
- D The lower part of the left panel gives overall testing information that may be useful for school records. Depending on the report, this information can include the number of students taking the assessment, form identification, special codes, test date, or class, school, and/or system.



INDIVIDUAL PROFILE REPORT

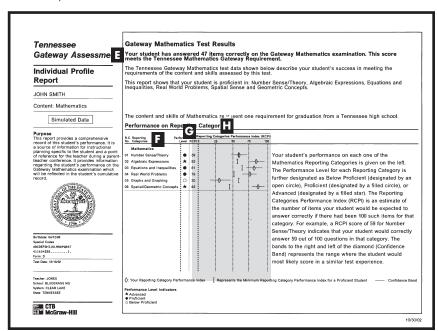
The Individual Profile Report (IPR) is intended primarily for teachers. A copy should also be provided to the student's parents. The IPR identifies areas of student strengths and needs. These areas are broken down by Reporting Category.

- Indicates whether student performance has met the Gateway proficiency requirement for this content area.
- **F** Each Gateway Reporting Category is listed for the content area covered.
- A symbol that indicates the student's level of mastery (Performance Level) is shown on the report.



H The Reporting Category Performance Index (RCPI) scale runs from "0" to "100" indicating the degree to which a student has mastered Gateway Reporting Categories. The RCPI is an estimate of the number of items the student could be expected to answer correctly if the student had taken 100 similar items measuring that objective.

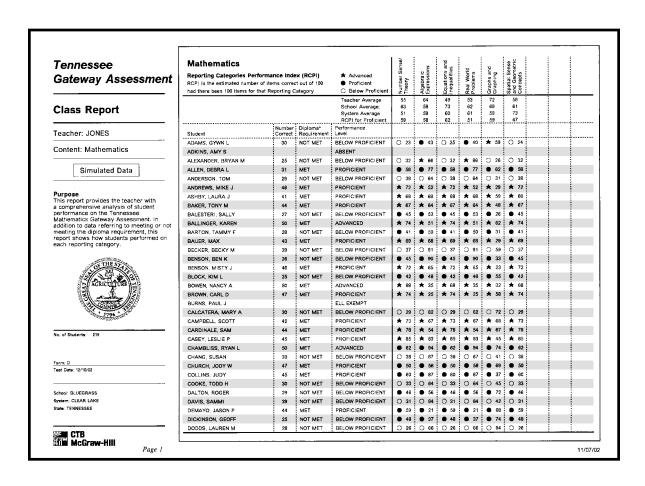
The RCPI the student obtained in each category is represented by a diamond symbol on the graph. The bands to the left and right of the diamonds (Confidence Bands) represent the range where the student would most likely score in a similar test experience. The shorter the band, the more confidence one can have in the RCPI.



CLASS REPORT

The Class Report summarizes results from the Individual Profile Reports, showing how students performed in each Reporting Category. Students are listed alphabetically with information displaying the number of items correct, whether the diploma requirement was met, and the Performance Level. Also included at the top, is summary data by teacher, school, and system.

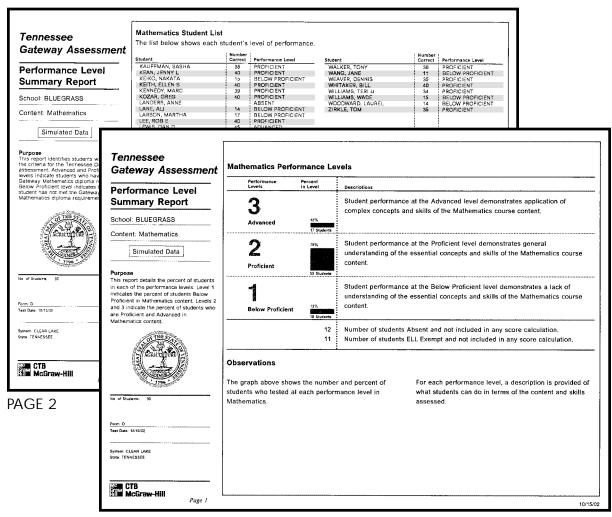
This summarized data can be used to identify the specific areas in which a student has difficulty. This is a valuable tool for Intervention and can be used to individualize the student's Intervention program so as to concentrate study in areas of need to maximize potential of student success when retaking the test.



PERFORMANCE LEVEL SUMMARY REPORT

The Performance Level Summary Report provides a snapshot of the achievement of a class or group. The graph on Page 1 presents a visual overview of performance for the total group, showing the number of students (and percentage of students) who tested at each Performance Level. The number of students who were Absent is listed under the "Below Proficient" category. These students are not included in the student total. Descriptors, associated with each Performance Level, are also included.

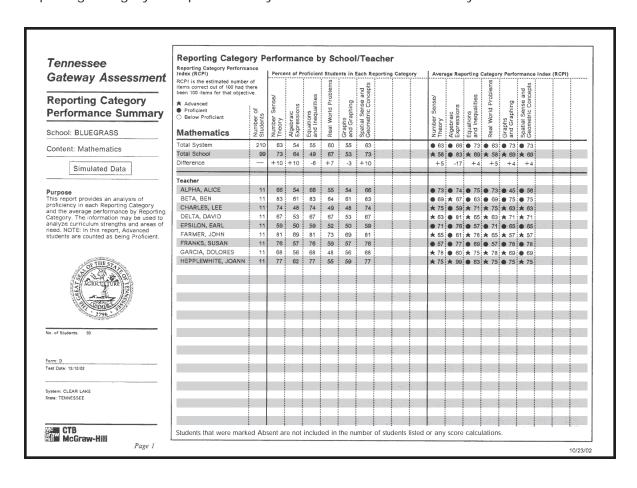
Page 2 of this report lists students alphabetically and indicates their number of correct items and Performance Levels. This provides a record of individual achievement on this assessment.



PAGE 1

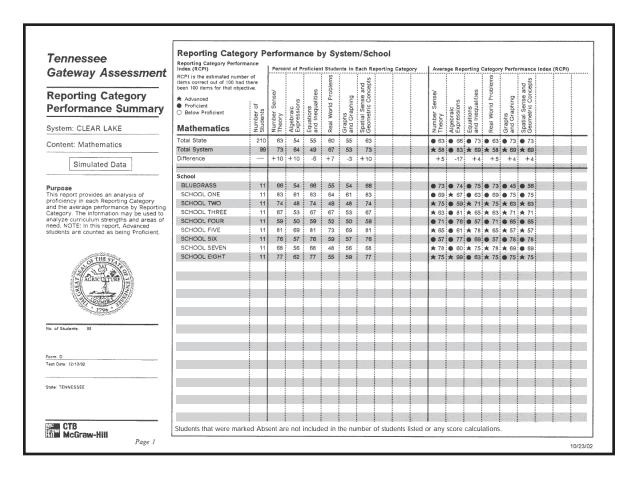
REPORTING CATEGORY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (by Teacher)

This Summary displays the average of students' performance, by teacher, in each Reporting Category, and shows the percentage of students scoring Proficient and above for each Reporting Category. Comparisons may also be made to school and system results.



REPORTING CATEGORY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (by School)

This Summary displays the average of students' performance, by school, in each Reporting Category, and shows the percentage of students scoring at Proficient and above for each Reporting Category. Comparisons may also be made to system and state results.



UTILIZING GATEWAY RESULTS

Each of the six reports provided from the Gateway assessments are intended to assist the educators of Tennessee in providing quality education to their students.

The Individual Profile Report allows students, their parents, and teachers to see specific strengths and needs in each content area. For students who do not meet the graduation proficiency requirement, it allows for appropriate intervention.

The Class Report provides teachers and administrators with an overall picture of the strengths and needs of each student within the class as well as the class's performance in relation to the entire school and the district. Teachers and administrators should use this report to analyze overall student performance. The number correct will translate to a grade to be averaged into the semester grade. This grade translation is determined by the system. The Reporting Category Performance Index (RCPI) data details student performance in each reporting category to assist in evaluation and remediation.

The Performance Level Summary Report is primarily utilized for reporting purposes. Page one allows administrators a snapshot of the school or system performance in each content area while all subsequent pages provide guidance counselors a comprehensive list of students tested, their number correct and performance level.

The Reporting Category Performance Summary Report (by Teacher) provides school and system level administrators with a tool for evaluating teacher instructional strategies and curriculum. If teachers Group Information Sheets (GIS) are utilized for each individual class, a teacher may use this report to compare overall performance of each class.

The Reporting Category Performance Summary Report (by School) provides system level administrators with a tool for evaluating the overall performance and instructional strategies of each school within the system,